



Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

Event Descriptions

*Events marked with an asterisk require reservations. Call 419-898-0014 to save your spot!

BLUE GOOSE BUS TOUR

Join a ranger and enjoy behind the scenes access to closed areas of the refuge complex. Destinations vary depending on wildlife use and activity.

OTTAWA TRAM TOUR

Enjoy the breeze while searching for wildlife and admiring beautiful landscapes. This open air tram tour is great for the entire family!

NATURE TOTS

Children ages 3-5 are invited to bring their favorite adult for nature crafts, stories, and outdoor fun!

SWAMPERS

Children ages 6-12 are invited to hike with refuge staff for a swampin' good time!

CARS FOR CRITTERS CAR SHOW

Friends of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge sponsors this car show with live critters, great food, tram tours of the refuge, and DJ Cruisin Zeake spinning classic car show tunes!

HIKE THE DIKES

"Hike the Dikes" is a cooperative program with Magee Marsh Wildlife Area and Black Swamp Bird Observatory. Attend three and earn a hiking stick!

17th ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST DISPLAY

Enjoy the splendor of your federal lands through this annual photo contest display. Categories include Birds, Wildlife, Landscapes, and People. Contest entry forms available at the visitor center and online.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Celebrate the holiday season while enjoying a warm fire, festive music, kids crafts, and good company. Enter to win a gift basket too!

BIG SIT

Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week with manager Jason Lewis at his annual BIG SIT. Sunrise—4pm at the mouth of Crane Creek along the Estuary Trail. Park at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area.

LAKE ERIE WING WATCH

Join us for family friendly weekend of watching winged things! Event includes speakers, guided hikes, tram tours, music, arts and crafts, food and fun!

OTTAWA WILDLIFE DRIVE

Enjoy the refuge from the comfort of your car! The 7 mile ONE WAY gravel route begins from the overflow parking area. Open sunrise to sunset. (Entrance gate closes one hour prior to sunset)

MONTHLY BIRD SURVEYS

Join a refuge volunteer and become a citizen scientist the first Sunday of each month at 8:00 am. Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather.
Meet at the trailhead parking area.

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING WORKSHOP

This event is geared for the new waterfowl hunter. Learn about waterfowl ID, decoy setups, blinds, boats, and cooking. Registration forms are available at the visitor center and online.

CONTROLLED WATERFOWL HUNT

If you hear gun shots, DON'T BE ALARMED:
October 1, 2, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22, 24, 26, 28, 29
November 12, 14, 16, 18, 21, 23
ESTUARY TRAIL CLOSED

CONTROLLED DEER ARCHERY HUNT

September 26—30, October 3—7,
December 5—9, December 12—16
SOME REFUGE TRAILS CLOSED

CONTROLLED DEER GUN HUNT

If you hear gun shots, DON'T BE ALARMED:
November 19, 20 & Nov 28—Dec 2
ALL REFUGE TRAILS CLOSED

CONTROLLED DEER HUNT PREVIEW DAY

Prepare for a successful hunt by scoping out your hunting unit ahead of time (Saturday Nov 5, 2016).

Visitor Center Closed:

Monday, October 10
Friday, November 11
Thursday, November 24
Sunday, December 25
Monday, December 26
Sunday, January 1
Monday, January 2

Visitor Center Closed at Noon:

Wednesday, November 23
Saturday, December 24



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Calendar of Events

September—December, 2016

*Reservations required. Call 419-898-0014 to save your spot!

Unless otherwise stated, programs begin at the visitor center.

Saturday, September 3

10:30-11:30am— Nature Tots*

1-2:30pm— Swampers*

Sunday, September 4

8am— Monthly Bird Survey

Saturday, September 10

9am— Hike the Dikes

Saturday, September 17

Ottawa Wildlife Drive

Lake Erie Wing Watch

Sunday, September 18

Ottawa Wildlife Drive

Lake Erie Wing Watch

Sunday, September 25

Ottawa Wildlife Drive

9am-2pm— Ottawa Tram Tours

9am-3pm— Cars for Critters Car Show

Saturday, October 1

10:30-11:30am— Nature Tots*

1-2:30pm— Swampers*

Sunday, October 2

8am— Monthly Bird Survey

12pm— Youth Waterfowl Hunting Workshop*

Sunday, October 9

Big Sit

9:30am-12:00pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour*

1-3:30pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour*

Saturday, October 15

10am-12pm— Ottawa Tram Tour*

1pm-3pm— Ottawa Tram Tour*

Sunday, October 16

Ottawa Wildlife Drive

Tuesday, October 18

9:30am-12:00pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour*

Saturday, October 29

1-3:30pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour*

Sunday, October 30

10am-12pm— Ottawa Tram Tour*

1pm-3pm— Ottawa Tram Tour*

Saturday, November 5

9am-2pm— Controlled Deer Hunt Preview Day

10:30-11:30am— Nature Tots*

1-2:30pm— Swampers*

Sunday, November 6

8am— Monthly Bird Survey

Saturday, November 12

1-3:30pm— Blue Goose Bus Tour*

Saturday, December 3

10:30-11:30am— Nature Tots*

1-2:30pm— Swampers*

Sunday, December 4

8am— Monthly Bird Survey

12pm-4pm— Holiday Open House

Saturday, December 17

Ottawa Wildlife Drive

Sunday, December 18

Ottawa Wildlife Drive

September 17 — October 15

17th Annual Photo Contest Display



Members Only Events:

Saturday, September 24

9:30am-12pm: Cedar Point Bus Tour*

Friday, October 14

1-4pm: Navarre Marsh Bus Tour*

Saturday, November 5

9am-1pm: Crane Creek Canoe/Kayak Tour* (Bring your own boat)

Membership information is available at the visitor center information desk.